

MINUTES OF MEETING OF UPPERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7PM

Present: Kathy Ballard (KB) (Chair), Sargent Fiona Munro (FM)
James Towner, Assistant Headteacher of Gildredge House School (JT),
Antonia Lucas (AL), Sue Relf (SR), Roy Peacock (RP), Dionne Daniel (DD),
Rev. Paul Tabraham (PT), Rod Pizzey, Alex Hough (AH), Matthew Earl (ME),
Tom Nevill (TN), Marie Hennelly (MH), Gill Morris (GM) (minuting)

Apologies: Councillor Robin Maxted, Councillor Patrick Rodohan,
Roger Dakin, Andrew Tilney - Neighbourhood Advisor Zone 2 and Upperton
Ward, Leslie Squires.

Operation Downsway – FM said the Police receive hundreds of reports across Eastbourne of anti-social driving which causes a lot of problems to local residents. Reckless driving can also lead to injury and death for other drivers and pedestrians, although fortunately the figures for this in Eastbourne are low. The area up to Beachy Head is very popular, as it has been featured on Top Gear and drivers from London and other areas outside Eastbourne come to drive around the circuit. This impacts on the local residents, Council and businesses. As well as excessive speed, revving engines, dangerous overtaking and stunts, the drivers also use abusive language to other motorists and pedestrians.

Anti social driving is difficult to deal with locally and nationally as drivers have to be caught in the act. Police have wide ranging powers and can seize motor vehicles that are being driven carelessly. They are recorded on the Police National Computer but the drivers have to be caught again. So far this year 113 notices have been issued and over 35 vehicles, since June have been caught with no insurance. Operation Downsway is a force-wide operation and each district looks at their own area.

A multi agency response has resulted in a barrier in Sevenoaks Road Park and CCTV to monitor areas where anti social driving has been reported. Drivers not wearing seat belts are shown a video by the Fire Brigade. Regarding e-scooters, FM confirmed they are not legal. If they are ridden on the seafront, they are subject to a bye-law and the Police cannot enforce this.

RP asked whether ANPR (Automatic number plate recognition) can be used to catch anti social drivers but FM said this only happens in cases when the vehicle is on the “hot list” and has been subject to crime, when it will come up in their control room. The Police can go back and look at ANPR retrospectively.

AL thanked FM for the Police report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It had given a true picture of what the Police do. AL said that, in response to anti social driving. Daryl Gale from Public Health is making efforts to get East Sussex County Council to be more cooperative in the use of Beachy Head Road. They are not getting the resources that metropolitan areas are. AL suggested that part of the levelling up fund could be used but, in response FM said that because of the low rate of accidents, such proposals have been turned down.

KB reported that there is to be a public consultation regarding a Public Space Protection Order introduction in Eastbourne. The Panel were asked what they thought of this. RP said that Caroline Ansell was unable to attend the presentation at the Town Hall but is very interested in this issue.

Update on Pavements – MH has been working with Caroline Ansell and had a few meetings, one of which was attended by Carl Taylor from East Sussex County Council, and Councillor David Tutt. MH hopes to have another meeting with Caroline and Carl in January.

MH has obtained figures from East Sussex County Council and 1.8 million extra is to be allocated to pavements county wide. The Highway Steward, every financial year, prioritises the streets that need repairing, the rest of the money goes to “patching”. MH has written to Caroline Ansell asking the following:

- 1) What proportion of the 1.8 million will be used for Eastbourne?
Currently 700,000 was allocated last year to Eastbourne and we are hoping this will increase with some of the extra 1.8 million.
- 2) We believe that it would be far more positive for a transparent plan to be decided which would outline the work to be undertaken on the residential streets leading from the town Centre of Eastbourne in the first instance.
- 3) Why is East Sussex County Council so hesitant in adopting a maintenance budget, other than by priority?

The answers received will help decide on the course of action at the next meeting.

AL said that City Fibre have to go through East Sussex County Council to replace the pavements as the slabs are too expensive, so they are patching up using tarmac. Rod Pizzey had been told by Lightening Fibre that they tried to agree with the council that they would replace damaged paving stones but the Council turned them down.

PT expressed his concerns about the disruption where they are building Emmanuel Church and Community Centre on the corner of Upperton Road and

Watts Lane. He hoped that there would soon be an end to there being heavy vehicles. PT confirmed that the developers would have to make good the area.

Eastbourne Grow and possible community larder for Upperton

KB reported that a community larder had been set up on Tuesday and Wednesday and wondered whether Upperton could have one on Thursday. KB had contacted PT about the possibility of using Emmanuel Church. KB had been in touch by email with Gabi at the community larder in Langney, which runs from the Community Centre, and has passed Gabi's details to PT. There are allotments in Meads, Hampden Park and Princes Park.

AH is involved in Eastbourne Networks who work with refugees and has volunteers who would be willing to help with gardening and growing their own food. KB will pass AH Sally Lee's email, who is involved with Grow Eastbourne Volunteers. **Action: KB**

JT said that Gildredge House School is limited for outside space for such an initiative, but they are looking at developing the area behind the School.

AL reported that Edible Eastbourne have planted fruit trees by the Tennis Café in Gildredge Park and there are also two raised herb beds on the walkway through the Park. These could be adopted by Eastbourne Networks. AL offered to donate seeds to Eastbourne Networks in order for the gardening volunteers to grow their own vegetables. **Action: AL**

KB asked SR whether Community Wise could be used for a community larder. SR said they have been approached about having a community fridge but have limited capacity. The community fridge is run from Victoria Baptist Church.

Community larder will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Any other business – RP thanked everyone who had offered to deliver Neighbourhood Watch newsletters following his appeal at the previous meeting.

AL proposed a meeting with JT in February about the traffic calming measures in Compton Place Road, in order to compose a letter to East Sussex County Council. AL to contact Councillor Maxted about this. **Action: AL**

AH pointed out to JT that children inhale more pollutants inside than outside the car. JT confirmed that the school is making efforts with pupils to make greener choices and for the school to become more eco-friendly.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7pm – SR to organise Zoom link.